

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SS-15 NSC-05

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R 291445Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2482

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 14150

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, CH

SUBJECT: SCHMIDT AND STRAUSS VISITS TO CHINA

REF: PEKING 1535

1. SUMMARY: STRAUSS VISIT TO CHINA IN SEPTEMBER HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED BY THE CSU. DATES FOR SCHMIDT VISIT NOT YET SET, BUT PLANNED FOR THE END OF OCTOBER. END SUMMARY.
2. THE CSU PRESS SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED AUGUST 27 THAT CSU CHAIRMAN FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS WILL VISIT THE GERMAN INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION "TECHNOGERMA," WHICH WILL OPEN IN PEKING ON SEPTEMBER 18. THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THIS VISIT WILL BE STRAUSS' SECOND TO CHINA THIS YEAR.
3. THE FONOFF (WEGNER, ASIA DIVISION) TOLD US AUGUST 28 THAT STRAUSS HAS NOT BEEN INVITED BY ANY CHINESE ORGANIZATION. RATHER, HE IS JUST ONE OF MANY GERMANS WHO WILL VISIT "TECHNOGERMA." WHEN ASKED WHAT TYPE OF RECEPTION THE FONOFF EXPECTS STRAUSS TO RECEIVE, WEGNER WAS EVASIVE. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT STRAUSS

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RECEIVED RED CARPET TREATMENT LAST SPRING.

4. WEGNER SAID THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT PLANS TO VISIT CHINA AT THE END OF OCTOBER AND BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER. HE EMPHASIZED THAT NO FIRM DATES HAVE BEEN FIXED AND THAT THE CHANCELLOR'S PLANS ARE CONFIDENTIAL. IN REPLY TO OUR QUESTION, WEGNER SAID THAT THE CHANCELLOR WOULD EXPECT TO BE RECEIVED BY CHOU EN LAI, WHO, HE NOTED, IS RECEIVING FOREIGN VISITORS. AS FOR MAO, WEGNER SAID THAT NO VISITOR KNOWS BEFORE HE ARRIVES IF HE WILL SEE MAO OR NOT.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: THE FONOFF IS OBVIOUSLY WORRIED ABOUT THE STRAUSS VISIT AND APPARENTLY HAS NOT NAILED DOWN THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SCHMIDT. IT THEREFORE WANTS TO MAINTAIN MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY BY HOLDING SCHMIDT'S PLANS AS TIGHTLY AS POSSIBLE. BY NOT MAKING SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS FOR THE CHANCELLOR'S VISIT, THE FONOFF ALSO INCREASES THE POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING DOWN THE RECEPTION THE CHINESE WILL GIVE STRAUSS. WE EXPECT THAT FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF SCHMIDT'S PLANS WILL AWAIT THE CONCLUSION OF STRAUSS' VISIT AND WILL BE DETERMINED IN LARGE PART BY THE RECEPTION ACCORDED STRAUSS AND WHAT ADVANCE COMMITMENTS SCHMIDT CAN OBTAIN ON HIS OWN RECEPTION.
CASH

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